GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6275
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
POPULATION CONTROL
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various policies and programmes launched by the Union Government to check increasing population in the country the problem of increase in population remains ineffective;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some developing countries have succeeded in controlling population in their country;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to adopt measures prevalent in this regard in those countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)& (b) It is incorrect to say that the policies and programmes have been ineffective to check increasing population growth. The decadal growth rate of population in the country rose from 13.31 per cent in 1951 to 21.64 per cent in 1961, and reached all time high of 24.80 per cent in 1971. After 1971, the average exponential growth rate of population began declining as follows :

1981	-	24.66%
1991	-	23.86%
2001	-	21.34%

For the country as a whole the achievements under the `National Family Welfare Programmes`have been substantial. Some States/UTs like Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Kerala, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Mizoram have achieved replacement levels of fertility (Total Fertility Rate of 2.1). Other States/UTs like Manipur, Daman & Diu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep are close to achieving the total fertility rate of 2.1 goals. However, some States continue to lag behind, primarily on account of slow achievements of socio-economic indicators.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e) In order to achieve population stabilization, and keeping in view the related achievements made by some developing countries like Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Malaysia and the Programme of Action of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held at Cairo in 1994, the Government of India has adopted the National Population Policy(NPP), in Feb. 2000. NPP lists certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010. These are:

1) Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.

2) Make school education upto age 14 free and compulsory and reduce dropouts at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 percent for both boys and girls.

3) Reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births.

4) Reduce maternal mortality ratio to below 100 per 100,000 live births.

5) Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.

6) Promote delayed marriage for girls, not earlier than age 18 and preferably after 20 years of age.

7) Achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent deliveries by trained persons.

8) Achieve universal access to information/counseling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.

9) Achieve 100 per cent registration of births, deaths, marriages and pregnancy.

10) Contain the spread of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and promote greater integration between the management of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.

11) Prevent and control communicable diseases.

12) Integrate Indian System of Medicines (ISMN) in the provision of reproductive and child health services and in reaching out of households.

13) Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels to TFR.

14) Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programmes so that family welfare becomes a people centered programme.

The effective steps taken after the adoption of NPP2000 are as under :

- State Governments have been advised to formulate State Population Policy with state specific strategies while maintaining the general spirit of National Population Policy, 2000 and also to constitute State Population Commission under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of respective State to review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the State Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the National Population Policy, 2000.

- The State Governments have also been advised to prepare firm and detailed action plan taking into account the ground realities and their area specific problems (region wise/ district wise) for effective implementation of family welfare programme.

- To enhance and accelerate performance in states with currently below average socio-demographic indices, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for preparation of area specific programmes with special emphasis on states that are lagging behind. A detailed database for eight states i.e. MP, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand has been compiled by the Department of Family Welfare to help guide the assessment of community needs.

- The Government of India has constituted a National Commission on Population (NCP) on 11th May 2000 under the chairmanship of Hon`ble Prime Minister of India and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Vice Chairman. The main functions of NCP is to review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the Policy.